

ALG Minutes---September 8, 2011

Present: Bart Wendell, facilitator; Mike Gowing (BOS); Xuan Kong (SC); Bill Mullin, Doug Tindal (FC); Steve Ledoux, John Murray, Steve Mills & Don Aicardi, staff. Absent: Pam Harting-Barat & John Petersen.

Audience: Steve Barrett & Marie Altieri, staff; Clint Seward & Mary Ann Ashton, (FC); Janet Adachi(BOS); Charlie Kadlec, Paul Hoff & Bob Ingram (AVG); Paulina Knibbee.

Minutes of July 20 were OK'd

3. Revenue updates for FY 11 & 12---Steve L & Steve M.

Extra Info: sheet showing Town's FY11 general fund update

Steve L reported that there was good news: the MVE tax which was held at a conservative level came in higher than expected with an \$84,891 additional dollars; investment income was close to \$20k less than expected; fees were \$211k higher; and the category of one-time revenues was \$634,515 greater than expected. Steve cautioned that this sum was just one-time revenue coming from such things as tax title roll-backs and could not be counted on being available again.

He noted that part of the savings came from the health care and pension changes that were made in the collective bargaining contracts. There are still costs of Town Counsel and snow & ice. There is some suggestion that there will be a supplementary additional local aid payment sometime in the fall. Neither the time nor the amount is known.

Steve M reported that CH.70 funds were greater than anticipated & he was able to return @\$450k from APS to free cash & \$1.5m to E&D. He noted that the E&D account was reaching the allowed limit of 5% of the total budget

Mills said that he'd met with parents' groups and discussed the return of money to reserves. He added that having monies returned made the close-out of FY11 successful in his eyes.

Don added that the \$450k number for APS also included some non-recurring revenues. The situation at AB is "more complex" There is already a \$660k positive return and may be a \$1.5m into reserves. There seems to be a technical error because the auditor has the number at \$2m ---this is a good position to be in. We are now going through the recommendations that the administration will make to the school committees. Prior to the meeting for APS, there will be a short meeting for the AB committee.

Bill---returning to the Town's schedule---the FC knows about the snow & ice expenditures what are the non-recurring items under Msc? Are there budget to actuals?

Steve Barrett-we are still getting the data ready [to submit to] for the DOR. Under Msc we have nearly \$600k in health turnbacks; money for the pension reform---this money is a real tribute to the management on the contracts. There is also the turnback from APS.

Bill "It's nice to have a plethora rather than a dearth [of funds]. I think the FC will benefit from the discussions of the use of E&D---can you come on Tuesday (09/13) & talk it over. Don & Steve M agreed. Bill—I can see a list of options [for the determination of the money]---there may be philosophical differences. We do not intend to give advice but do want to know what you [schools] intend to do.

4. ALG spreadsheet--Don

Extra info: spreadsheet

Don: the cherry sheet numbers have not been changed since July, we cannot add the supplement numbers until the money comes in; on page two are the variances of both town & schools. It looks as if the revenue picture will “brighten for FY13”

Bill: in the past we have had problems representing reserves. The FC will make recommendations on this at the Oct meeting.

5. Calendar review---J. Murray

Extra info: new color coded calendar showing meeting dates for major committees

The ALG is scheduled to meet the 2nd Thursday of the month. There are tentative dates for a second meeting in Dec. Jan., Feb., & March.

Xuan asked that the Feb meeting date be changed from 29th to the 28th---it was done

Steve L announced that the Towns’ budget Saturday was scheduled for Jan 14. The schools will be either Jan 7 or 21st.

J. Murray noted that the Gov’s budget is not due out until the second week of Jan. Prior to that; there will be no actual numbers to work with

The discussion centered on how to set the agendas so that important decisions were made in a timely manner. Mike suggested using a Gant chart format

Bart asked who would be in charge of this chart

Mike agreed to do the chart with the help of staff

***It was agreed that the chart will be an agenda item for the Oct. meeting

***It was agreed to set up “straw men” numbers also for the Oct agenda—J. Murray will do this

Xuan asked that MM also be added to the agenda

***I was agreed that there would be a discussion of the Minuteman budget & capital plans on the agenda

7. Public input

Mr. Kadlec asked the meaning of “recap” on the FY11 spreadsheet

J. Murray explained that it was the numbers that were sent to the state

Mr. Kadlec asked when there would be actual numbers

Ans: that will come in October when all the town votes & revenues are reviewed by the state & certified.

Don & John will work together to make the necessary changes to the spreadsheet for October

Adjourned 8:25 AM

Ann Chang

